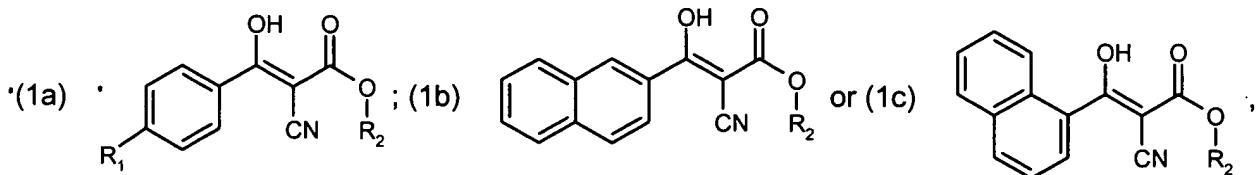
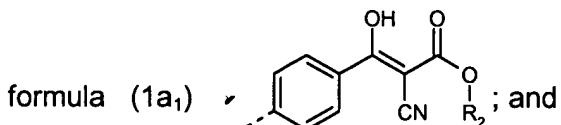


1. (original): 3-aryl-2-cyano-3-hydroxy-acrylic acid derivates of formula



wherein

R₁ is hydrogen, C₁-C₂₀alkyl; C₁-C₂₀alkoxy; CF₃; C₆-C₁₀aryl; or a radical of



R₂ is hydrogen; or C₁-C₂₀alkyl.

2. (original): Compounds of formula (1a) according to claim 1, wherein

R₁ is C₆-C₁₀aryl.

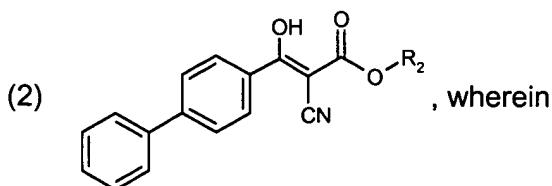
3. (currently amended): Compounds according to claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein

R₁ is phenyl.

4. (currently amended): Compounds according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein

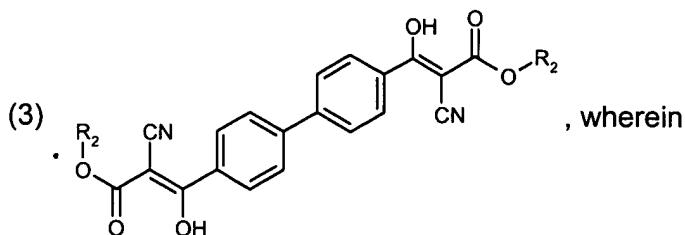
R₂ is C₁-C₂₀alkyl.

5. (currently amended): Compounds according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, which correspond to formula



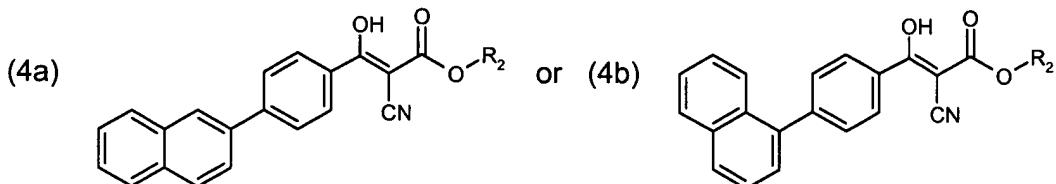
R₂ is C₁-C₂₀alkyl.

6. (currently amended): Compounds according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, which correspond to formula



R₂ is C₁-C₂₀alkyl.

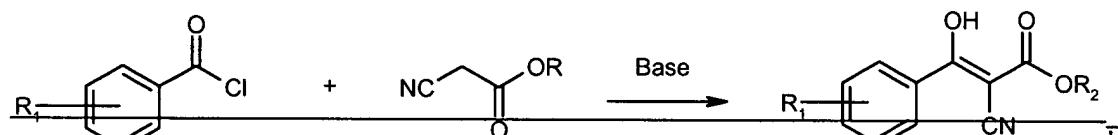
7. (currently amended): Compounds according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, which correspond to formulae



wherein

R₂ is C₁-C₂₀alkyl.

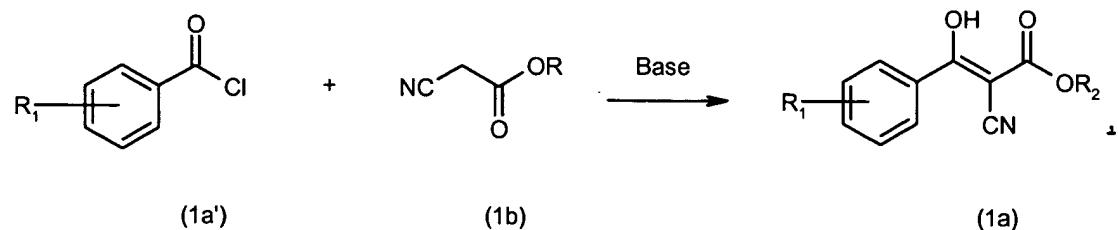
8. (currently amended): Process for the preparation of the compounds of formula (1a) according to claim 1, which comprises condensing the cyanoacetate of formula (1a) (1b) with the carbon acid chloride of formula (1b) (1a') to the compound of formula (1a) according to the following reaction scheme:



(1a)

(1b)

(1)



(1a')

(1b)

(1a)

wherein

R₁ and R₂ are defined as in claim 1.

9. (currently amended): ~~Use of the compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to any of claims 1 to 7-A method for the antimicrobial treatment of surfaces, which comprises treating said surfaces with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to claim 1.~~
10. (currently amended): ~~Use of the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to claim 9-in-method for the antimicrobial treatment, deodorisation and disinfection of the skin, mucosa-and or hair, which comprises treating said skin, mucosa or hair with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) according to claim 1.~~
11. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 10, wherein treatment with the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c)~~results in~~ are used for the prevention of the adhesion of bacteria on surfaces and the further forming of the biofilms~~biofilms~~ and for detaching the biofilm and/or for the inhibition of the ~~groth~~ growth of the biofilm-forming microorganisms in ~~the~~a biological matrix or for killing them.
12. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein ~~Use of the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) for the treatment of textile fibre materials~~ are treated.
13. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 9, wherein the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) are used in preservation.
14. (currently amended): A method according ~~Use~~ according to claim 9, wherein the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) is incorporated ~~are used~~ into washing and cleaning formulations.
15. (currently amended): A method ~~Use~~ according to claim 9, wherein the compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c)~~are used~~ results in imparting antimicrobial properties to, and preserving, plastics, paper, nonwovens, wood or leather.
- 16.(currently amended):A method according to claim 9, wherein ~~Use of the compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c)-for~~ results in imparting antimicrobial properties to, and preserving technical products.
17. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein ~~Use of the compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) is employed~~ as a biocide in technical processes.

18. (original): A personal care preparation comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c) and cosmetically tolerable adjuvants.

19. (original): An oral composition comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formulae (1a), (1b) or (1c), and orally tolerable adjuvants.